Review of Tuberculosis Eradication Programmes

203. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any review regarding the Tuberculosis Eradication Programmes with the assistance of international agencis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will review the functioning of the existing programmes according to the convenience of the poor patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WALFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) In 1992, Government of India together with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Swedish International Development Agency(SIDA) reviewed the National TB Control Programme. The important findings of the Committee were:

(i) Less than 40% patients completed treatment.

(ii) Inadequate budget and managerial capacity.

(iii) Emphasis on x-ray as tool of diagnosis.

(iv) Poor quality of sputum microscopy.

(v) Shortage of drugs and multiplicity of treatment regimens.

(c) and (d) A review of National TB Control Programme is being conducted with the help of WHO and with participation of other Internationl agencies. Report will be issued shortly.

Projects on NACO

204. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NACO, the nodal agency to prevent AIDS, has so far not achieved its objectives and its projects are behind the schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and